The People's Korea

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President KIM IL SUNG Receives Somali Gov't Del.

President Kim Il Sung on Apr. 12 received the government delegation of the Somali Democratic Republic, KCNA reported.

Present on the occasion were the members of the delegation headed by Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam, and Kim Chung Il and other personages concerned were on hand.

Also present was Mohamed Ismail Kahin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Somali Democratic Republic to the DPRK.

The head of the delegation courteously conveyed a personal letter of His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, President of the Somali Democratic Republic, to President Kim Il Sung.

President Kim Il Sung expressed thanks for this and had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The Somali government delegation visited the DPRK from Apr. 10 to 13.

During their stay in Pyongyang, talks were held between the DPRK and Somali governments' delegations.

President Kim Il Sung met the government delegation of the Somali Democratic Republic staying in the DPRK on Apr. 12. (KCNA Radiophoto)

CHONGRYUN DELS.

On Apr. 13 the President received the delegation of Korean scientists in Japan and the stockbreeding and biological technical delegation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) on a visit to the homeland.

Present on the occasion were all the members of the delegation of Korean scientists in Japan headed by Song Gyu Yong, head of the instruction department of Korea University, and the stockbreeding and biological technical delegation of Chongryun headed by Chong Dae Song, deputy chief of the scientific research department of Korea University.

Kim Jung Rin and Kim Hwan were present there.

Also present were Han Duk Su, Chairman, and Li Gye Baek, Vice-Chairman, of Chongryun CSC on a visit to homeland.

The President cordially shook hands with the members of the delegations, had a conversation with them and posed for a photograph with them.

President's 67th Birthday Feted Here

A banquet was held on the evening of Apr. 13 at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, celebrating the 67th birthday of President Kim Il Sung sponsored by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun).

Present at the banquet were Vice-Chairmen Li Jin Gyu, Pak Jae Ro, Nam Shi U, Yun Sang Chul of Chongryun CSC, directors of Chongryun CSC and other responsible officers of the Chongryun affiliated organizations.

Invited to the banquet were more than 1,000 Japanese people of various circles and foreign diplomats here from 40 countries, including ambassadors of USSR, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Laos, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Iran, Lebanon and Costa Rica.

Among the Japanese guests were: Shimodaira Shoichi, Vice-Chairman of the Japan Socialist Party; Kaneko Mitsuhiro, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Japan Communist Party; Kono Yohei, representative of New Liberal Club; Den Hideo, representative of the Socialist Democratic League; Kuno Chuji, representative of the Japanese Dietmen's League for Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship.

At the banquet Vice-Chairman Li Jin Gyu made a speech.

Referring to the fact that the Chongryun delegation congratulating the 67th birthday of the President headed by Chairman Han Duk Su is visiting the homeland, he said:

Owing to the wise guidance of the President, the DPRK, once a backward state, is enjoying admiration from the world as the "country of Juche" and the "model of socialist country."

Pointing to the recent north-south contact, vice-chairman said: Chongryun and Korean nationals here should strengthen the international friendship and solidarity with the Japanese people and the people of the world and do their effort for earlier realization of the reunification of the country, by opposing "two-Korea" plot of the enemies.

The guest speakers were Chief Director Takagi Takeo of the Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Association and Ichikawa Makoto, member of the International Liaison Office of Supporting the Independent, Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

They unanimously congratulated the 67th birthday of the President and wished his long life.

On Apr. 14, the central meeting of celebrating the 67th birthday of the President was held at Tokyo Korean Cultural Hall.

The Korean Cultural Hall was packed with around 5,000 Korean nationals in Tokyo.

¥500 Mil. Scholarships Sent Here

President Kim Il Sung sent a huge amount of educational aid fund and stipends reaching 500 million yen (in Japanese currency) in the 71st installment for the development of the democratic national education of the Korean citizens in Japan, KCNA reported on Apr 15.

This brought the total amount of the educational aid fund and stipends sent by him in the 71st installment for the children of compatriots in Japan to 26,362,827,033 yen (in Japanese currency).

The 70th installment of such remittance came last December, amounting to 500 million yen.

At the first remittance, 121,099,086 yen was sent here in April, 1957 in a difficult condition that the DPRK was still rehabilitating its economy after the three-year war against U.S. invasion which ended in 1953.

EDITORIAL

Today all the Korean nationals resident in Japan, together with the compatriots in the homeland, are fervently celebrating the 67th birthday of President Kim Il Sung, their great leader as a national holiday of major significance.

The world's progressive people express militant congratulations to him on his 67th birthday, wishing him a good health and a long life.

Born into a revolutionary family with a patriotic tradition on April 15, 1912, President Kim Il Sung embarked on the road of revolutionary struggles at the age of 15.

In the early years of his revolutionary struggle, the President founded the great Juche idea on a basis of a thorough review of the history of the world revolutionary struggles and his own experience. With the Juche idea as his guide, he launched the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, centering on the armed resistance which lasted some 15 years, ending with the defeat of Japanese imperialism. In 1945 he liberated the country from Japanese colonial rule and quickly moved to establish the Democratic People's Republic of Korea three years later, an event of historic significance in the long history of the Korean people.

With the DPRK founded, the Korean people became able to lead a proud worthwhile life as citizens of an independent and sovereign state.

President Kim Il Sung effectively exploited the united strength of the liberated Korean people in resisting the American imperialist aggressors, winning a historic victory in the three-year Korean War.

This marked the beginning of the decline of the U.S.-led imperialist forces of the world and served as a decisive factor in uplifting the anti-imperialist, national liberation struggles throughout the world.

Successfully rehabilitating the country from war ruins, President Kim Il Sung set up the socialist system and converted the DPRK into a socialist industrial state in a short span of time, a potent display of his brilliant leadership. A miraculous development of the DPRK drew international attention and inspired the world's progressive people with a confidence of ultimate victory.

An impressive contribution has been rendered by President Kim Il Sung to the international communist movement and the liberation struggles of the world's progressive peoples.

After World War Two, the struggle for freedom and liberation has followed a zig-zag path partly due to the desperate schemings of the imperialist forces but mainly on account of the dearth of right action policy and experience adapted to the new environments.

The Korean people's struggle experience crowned with victory has become an exemplary case to be emulated by new-born countries and Third World peoples; and in particular the Juche idea of President Kim Il Sung is now internationally accredited as their textbook.

The Juche idea is a man-centred new philosophy evolving from Marxism-Leninism. It contains a proper outline of the course of human history mirroring the rapidly-changing state of the world.

The progressive people of the world regard it as natural to embrace the Juche idea and call it Kimilsungism.

The half century of presidential leadership represents a history of victory for the Korean people, a record of unprecedented events for the development of human history.

The Korean people and the world's progressive people deem it a source of boundless honor to receive the leadership of President Kim Il Sung.

A certain government leader of Cameroon remarked, "The world people express their heartfelt respect and admiration for President Kim Il Sung when they call him 'the respected and beloved leader' or 'the great leader.'"

This is a remark by a certain prominent Japanese military expert: "An ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander is an easy word to say, but it is an extremely hard job to find a man of that magnitude. President Kim Il Sung is known to have won one victory after another with his brilliant military strategic flair."

Over thirty years after its liberation, Korea remains yet to be reunified because of the American military presence in south Korea and the obstructionist role of foreign forces.

Reunifying the country is the over riding concern of the Korean nation. A split Korea is a huge misfortune for Korea and poses a constant threat to the peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world.

President Kim Il Sung, since the liberation till today, has advanced all conceivable reasonable proposals on numerous occasions to solve the reunification question, and has kept the door open for north-south talks. He has strived to achieve negotiations with the United States on the matter of reducing the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and bringing a lasting peace to it.

Pyongyang-Washington talks are still out of sight. The recently-resumed north-south talks have struck a snag owing to the lack of sincerity on the part of the south Koreans.

This is not all. The American Government has cancelled all the commitment to withdraw GI's from south Korea, planning to retain the American presence their forever, despite changes taking place in Asia as a whole. This American action is evidence of the designs of the U.S. on Asia.

As things stand, the reunification of Korea and the peace and security of Asia depend on the withdrawal of American military forces from south Korea. The broader sections of the Asian community demand American disengagement from south Korea.

National liberation and the independence of each nation is an irresistible trend of the world mankind. There is no chance of success for the "two-Korea" policy aimed at perpetuating the division of Korea for long.

The Korean people, led by the great leader President Kim Il Sung, will never fail to accomplish territorial reintegration in the not distant future.

With the 67th birthday of President Kim Il Sung being commemorated, the world situation is favoring the Korean people.

Deeply aware of the honor of having President Kim Il Sung as their leader, the Korean people will remain further rallied around him and renew their gigantic efforts to reunify the country and preserve world peace and progress, pooling strength with the peace loving peoples of the world.

Long live the great leader President Kim Il Sung!

Long live Korea's peaceful reunification!

Long live world peace!

Rodong Sinmun Raps Trans-Peninsula "S. Korean Wall" under Construction along MDL

PYONGYANG, April 13 (KCNA) —Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) Apr. 13 comes out with a commentator's article headlined "Treacherous Act against the Nation for Bisecting Territory of the Fatherland" commenting on the building of a wall of reinforced concrete without parallel in scale along the whole length of the demarcation line by the south Korean authorities.

The aricle reads in full:

An ill-boding thing is taking place along the Military Demarcation Line at present.

The south Korean authorities are building a wall of reinforced concrete without parallel in scale along the whole length of the demarcation line. According to reports, this wall under construction across our country from the east to the west is 5 metres high, 10 metres wide at the bottom and 2 to 3 metres wide at the top.

The south Korean authorities are mobilising a great multitude of puppet army soldiers and population and hurling various heavy equipment into this project. And they are importing large quantities of cement, the cement produced in south Korea falling short of the amount needed there.

Reports say that the south Korean authorities have already built the wall in a fairly long section and are further hastening the project these days.

Thus, a new huge concrete wall is now taking shape on the demarcation line along which the barbed wire entanglements stretch dividing the country for over 30 years.

The south Korean authorities have brought the U.S. troops and foreign monopoly capital into the country, pressganged a great number of young and middleaged people into the puppet army and massed them along the Military Demarcation Line and incited confrontation and division of the nation and, as if it were not enough, are now building a wall cutting the territory in two.

This is an unpardonable act of treachery for severing the blood vein of the nation for good and freezing the division permanently by bisecting the territory.

Such act of the south Korean authorities is intended to bar the reunification of the country and the nation into the original one country and one nation and divide the country into "two Koreas" for good and all.

It is only too clear that the country and the nation will inevitably be split into two, if a high wall stands between the north and the south and travel is cut off.

None of the previous south Korean rulers had ever dare thought of or undertaken such a thing.

Such act of the south Korean authorities is a high treason never to be condoned in any age which is intended to put a period to our national history spanning five thousand years in which our nation lived as a single nation.

Many a time walls were built in the long history of our people. But each of them was for defending the country and safeguarding the security and dignity of the nation from foreign aggression. None of them was for dividing the country and splitting the nation like that which the south Korean authorities are now building.

It makes our heart ache to think that the distress of national split has been continuing for one-third of a century due to the dark markers standing along the demarcation line. And now there is appearing a new wall for permanently dividing the nation. It can never be tolerated. Now the whole nation is shaking with wrath at this.

The south Korean authorities claim that such wall is made necessary by the "threat of southward invasion." But this is a fantastic sophism.

It is a policy consistently pursued by the south Korean authorities to oppose reunification and split the nation.

While building the barrier, they are now talking much about "dialogue" and "peaceful unification".

Is it becoming in them to talk about "dialogue" and "peaceful unification" while building a tight concrete wall between the north and the south and trying to cut the nation in two permanently?

If dialogue is to be held and reunification achieved, distrust and misunderstanding must be dispelled and an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity created and all the obstacles lying in the way of reunification removed.

It is necessary to pull down the existing barrier for the sake of reunification. But, far from doing this, they are building high a new one. Can we say that this is really for dialogue and reunification? How can a wall be compatible with dialogue and with peaceful reunification?

The south Korean authorities can not convince anyone, even if they may let one hundred mouths chant in chorus about "dialogue" and "peaceful unification." It is a camouflaged slogan for justifying their splitting machinations.

Their absurd stand and acts in the renewed contact and dialogue also proceeded from their splittist policy.

To make the contact and dialogue between the north and the south one for promoting the cause of the country's reunification, we stopped the accusing propaganda against the other side. But the side of the south has become more open in its slanders and calumnies against us. We called for a discontinuation of hostile military actions against the opposing side. But the side of the south has intensified them as never before. When we are making all efforts for the continuation of the contact between the liaison representatives of the two sides, the side of the south is laying one obstacle after another in the way of the contact and dialogue and leading it to a rupture.

Its act in trying to scuttle dialogue and building the wall for division behind the scene is an insult and challenge to the whole nation which wants to see an early solution of the question of the country reunification.

Nothing can justify the act of the south Korean side in building another artificial permanent wall along the demarcation line, trampling upon the unanimous national desire of the people for the reunification of the country.

The Korean people is a homogeneous nation which lived in one and the same territory for thousands of years, creating brilliant culture and history.

Our people do not want the continuation of territorial division and national split, but ardently desire reunification.

To reunify the country is the will and desire of our people and an urgent demand of the times and the nation.

Whatever high wall the south Korean authorities may build in the middle of the country, they cannot dampen the desire of the nation for reunification nor can they cut off the blood vein of the nation for good.

They must promptly stop the criminal act intended to bisect the territory and permanently divide the country and the nation by building the wall on the soil of the fatherland and must pull down without delay the wall already built.

Otherwise they will be committing an indelible crime in history against the nation and remain a target of curses and denunciation down through generations.

The south Korean people must never join the south Korean authorities in the treacherous act of totally severing the blood vein of the nation.

The south Korean authorities will be held wholly responsible for the grave consequences to be brought by their criminal act of building the wall to our people's noble cause of reunification.

KOREA FOCUS

45,000 S. Korean Military Personnel in Mideast

One news story has shocked and stunned the Korean people. The Tokyo-based Kyodo News Service, quoting the April 6 Arab Press Service, a leading weekly in Beirut, reported that a total of 45,000 south Korean military personnel are deployed in the Mideast, 30,000 in Saudi Arabia and 15,000 in Kuwait. The weekly wrote that informed sources in Beirut believe the reasons for the presence of south Korean military personnel are:(1) the U.S. concludes that the dispatch of American military personnel to the Persian Gulf in the wake of the revolution in Iran would invite stiff reaction from the Arab people and would not serve the American interests; (2) the commitment of south Korean militay personnel would not be conspicuous because of the presence in Saudi Arabia alone of tens of thousands of south Korean civilians; (3) the aim of south Korean military personnel is to provide rear logistic support in case of a contingency.

Today, the new-born states and Third World peoples are staunchly fighting for national independence and sovereignty in the real sense of the terms. Recent years have witnessed striking exploits in the struggle of the Arab people against dominationism, for liberty and democracy.

In April last year, the revolution triumphed in Afghanistan, and recently, the Iranian people toppled the Shah. These developments have forced the conservative kingdom in Saudi Arabia, a long ally of the U.S. to shift its policy to friendly relations with the Soviet Union and China and to neutrality and to take concerted action with the neighboring Arab countries. A total of 15 countries between Turkey and the Indian Ocean are in turmoil, religious, economic and social, as Brzezinski, special national security adviser to the U.S. President, observed. This is the most serious ordeal for the U.S. since the Truman era.

So, a series of hard-line steps have been taken by the U.S. to safeguard its interests in that region shortly since the successful Iran revolution. A large military aid has been given to North Yemen, and US carrier Constellation has been ordered into the Arabian Sea. Defense Secretary Brown has flown to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, reaffirming the U.S. commitment to the security of the Mideast and promising vigorous American military involvement in a future Mideast crisis. An American quick-response task force has already been created for a possible action in Korea and the Persian Gulf. The new task force comprises 100,000 soldiers. It was announced on Mar. 8 in Washington that a 5th Fleet, equal in size to the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea and the 7th Fleet in the Pacific Ocean, is now in the making to be stationed in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. Expansion of such hard-line measures was hinted by Brzezinski in his interview in U.S. News and World Report on Apr. 19. He said: "The fact of the matter is that, in the crises of the last two years, circumstances clearly mitigated against a direct display or presence of American power.... I beleive our response did inject a new sense of confidence in those who depend on us, and signaled to others that we will use force when necessary to protect our important interests."

There should be no doubt that the presence of south Korean military personnel in that region is in line with the afore-said military strategy of the U.S. The Arab Press Service quoted local airline officials as saying: "South Korean military personnel are here as civilians but live in military barracks." According to the weekly, local military sources refused to deny the news, but recalled that "the south Korean military personnel,trained in an American way, are versed in the use of American-made weapons."

There is a real danger of those south Koreans becoming combatants or the south Korean junta sending additional military personnel to the Mideast at the request of the U.S. This is clear from the Vietnam war.

The Pak Jung Hi junta followed a series of phases to make fait accompli the dispatch of south Korean soldiers to the Vietnam front. The initial step was a south Korean military mission's visit to Vietnam in 1962. A group of surgeons and nurses and south Korean-style self-defense art (called taekwondo) instructors were sent to the Vietnam front as the first batch of south Korean military personnel. That took place in 1964. The second and third batches were sent in 1965 as an engineer unit. In the fourth stage, combat forces were openly sent into the Vietnam war, including the "Tiger Division" and the "Blue Dragon Division." These phases were taken to appease public opinion critical of the Vietnam troop dispatch and rationalize the immoral act of participating in the aggressive war. In a total of five stages, more than 300,000 south Korean troops were commited to the Vietnam war as cannon fodder for the U.S.

A huge stockpile of American-made weapons and equipment in the Mideast, the effective operation of which requires the help of American mechanics. South Korean military personnel are there to do that job on behalf of the Americans. Is the Pak junta ready to dispatch south Korean military personnel and soldiers to any crisis area of the world where the Americans are planning their military involvement?

Such dispatch of south Korean military personnel highlights the so-called "manpower export" from south Korea. Immediately after its coup, the Pak junta instituted the "Law on Emigration," legalizing the active manpower export as a part of foreign currency-earning measures. From 1963 to May, 1975, a total of 102,000 south Koreans were sent to 58 countries as "manpower export," earning $806 million for the Pak junta. Since then, the number has been growing. This year, a plan envisages the export of manpower involving 110,000 men.

Their plight being so miserable, the south Koreans sent abroad often rose in an uprising. For example, in April, 1977, more than 2,000 south Korean workers rioted in Saudi Arabia. During the Vietnam war, the south Korean soldiers there received wages far less than those for Thai or Filipino soldiers, still less than the wages of the GI's. Vietnamese soldiers received bigger salaries than the south Koreans. During that war, it annually cost $6,600 to deploy one GI, while it took a mere $174 to use one south Korean soldier. When the war was raging in Vietnam, the U.S. asked Nato allies, Seato members and those of Anzus to send troops to the front, but most of those refused to do. Only south Korea agreed to commit large numbers of south Korean troops to Vietnam. The U.S. could hire a cheap mercenary force and the Pak junta got some foreign currency reserves. The Mideast dispatch is a replay of the Vietnam story. It has been shown in Vietnam, Taiwan and Iran that the U.S. is "an unreliable country." The Pak junta alone is offering positive help to the U.S in repressing the struggle of the Arab people for liberty, democracy and independence.

Expanding Foreign Trade

Traffic Volume at Trading Ports Shoots Up 60%

The volume of trade at the trading ports of the DPRK jumped 60 percent in the first quarter year over the same period last year.

President Kim Il Sung put great emphasis on foreign trade in his New Year address.

He said:

"This year we should make strong efforts to develop foreign trade.

"Developing foreign trade is of importance in boosting production through an effective utilization of the existing production capacities, in consolidating the independent national economy and promoting the friendly and cooperative relations with many countries of the world."

In response to his New Year address, great efforts are now being directed toward the development of foreign trade this year in the DPRK.

Economic growth reliably guarantees the development of foreign trade. The gross industrial output of the DPRK leaped 17 percent last year from the previous year. Especially, the output of steel marked a gain of 27 percent, chemical fertilizers 23 percent, cement 32 percent and aquatic products 20 percent.

The nation's gross industrial output plan in terms of value for the first quarter of this year was overfulfilled 23 percent. During this period, the output of major products such as steel, rolled steel, machine tools, tractors, chemical fertilizers, cement and magnesia clinker showed a marked advance over the like period of last year. These products are exported in large quantities through Nampo, Chongjin and other trading ports on the east and west coasts.

Especially, Haeju Port has been greatly modernized with the recent completion of its expansion project.

The port has a belt-conveyer line to carry cargoes from warehouses to ships and a long-distance belt-conveyer line linking it with a cement production base.

Large cargo vessels can freely operate at the moorings of the new wharf well furnished with cranes and loading and unloading equipment and stretching hundreds of metres from the existing wharf.

President Kim Il Sung personally visited the port in late autumn last year and gave on-the-spot guidance. The port was turned into a modern one in a short period thanks to his teachings, which the constructors made great endeavours to implement.

The freight traffic capacity of the port and the utility space of the storehouses have increased nearly 10 times as compared with what they were 20 years ago.

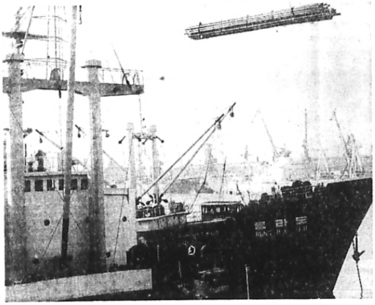
The port has many technicians and specialists.

The seamen's club and other service facilities at the port are being improved.

While continuing to develop trade with socialist countries, the Government of the DPRK is widely developing it with Third World countries, non-aligned countries and other countries of the world on the principles of equality, reciprocity and of meeting each other's needs.

In order to promote foreign trade, the Government of the DPRK sent trade delegations to many countries this year, including the People's Republic of China, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, the Romanian Socialist Republic and Viet Nam.

In order to develop foreign trade, the DPRK is making efforts to observe the credit-first principle. In all branches of the national economy precedence is now given to the production of exports goods.



Export of steel is steadily increasing. (at Nampo Port)

First Quarter Year Plan Overfulfilled

The gross industrial production plan in terms of value for the first quarter of the year was fulfilled at 123 percent in the national economy of the DPRK. This means a marked rise in the gross industrial output value in this period as compared with that in the whole year of 1961.

The working people all over the country made this success, upholding the tasks put forward by President Kim Il Sung in his New Year address for this year.

The workers in the mining industry who bear the brunt of the battle for the fulfilment of the new long-term plan beat their first quarter year target.

In the coal industry the coal output jumped 13 percent over that in the same period last year with definite precedence given to tunnelling and earth-scraping.

The first quarter year assignments were also topped in the power, metal, engineering, building materials and chemical industrial domains. This led to a considerable rise over the comparable period last year in the output of such major goods as steel, rolled steel, machine tools, excavators, tractors, electric locomotives, wagons, chemical fertilizers, vinalon, cement and magnesia clinker.

The gross industrial production plan in terms of value for the first quarter of the year was overfulfilled by 37 percent at the light industry commission which has steadily raised the production of daily necessaries and foodstuffs by effecting a new revolutionary upsurge in the production of mass consumption goods.

Notably, a number of mills in the domain of the textile industry boosted the output of yarn and fabrics in the period by between 24 and 43 percent as against the results in the like period last year by enhancing the level of technique and skill and waging a massive multi-machine and multi-loom tending movement.

The fishermen lifted the fisheries output 23 percent above that in the same period last year by steadily consolidating the previously unknown successes at the beginning of the year in fishing.

The transport plan and railway construction plan for the first quarter year were successfully fulfilled at the Ministry of Railways. The railway constructors completed the electrification of the Sinuiju-Huichon railway line and made a remarkable progress in the electrification projects on other sections and construction projects for raising the capacity of railway factories.

The transport workers under the Ministry of Land and Sea Transportation fulfilled their first quarter year plan for auto transport of freight on March 12 and then honoured the home shipping plan at 120 percent and freight traffic plan at the trading ports at 104 percent.

Having successfully overfulfilled the first quarter year plan, the working people in all domains of the national economy are making a general onward march to bring about a new upsurge while further increasing the Juche character of industry.

A part of the Taedonggang T.V. Factory

Support-Korea Reunion Com. Formed in Geneva

The inaugural meeting of the "Committee of Africain, Middle East and Latin American Students Studying in Switzerland for Supporting Korea's Reunification" was held on March 23 in Geneva, according to a KCNA report.

The meeting was attended by African, Middle East and Latin American students studying at the University of Geneva.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted at the meeting amid a stormy applause of the attendants.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

African student Ville Jean Marie Louis said that the three principles and five-point policy of national reunification put forward by President Kim Il Sung enjoyed the unqualified support of the progressive people of the world and the African students expressed full support and solidarity for the struggle of the Korean people for realizing the principles and policy.

Pointing out that the new four-point proposals advanced by the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland for national reunification carry weighty significance in accelerating the reunification of Korea, he stressed: the south Korean authorities must give up the "two Koreas" plot and unconditionally accept these proposals.

The purpose for forming the committee or supporting Korea's reunification is to express solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people for national reunification and strengthen friendship and solidarity with them, he declared.

He referred to the successes achieved by the Korean people in the revolution and construction. Their successes, he stated, are an example for the peoples of the Third World countries.

In his speech Latin American student Jose Marin emphasized: The immortal Juche idea founded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has become the guiding idea of the world progressive people and the world is advancing under the banner of the Juche idea.

Ville Jean Marie Louis was elected chairman and Jose Marin vice-chairman of the committee at the meeting.

The People's Korea Sponsors Professional Luncheon for Foreign Pressmen

A luncheon was given by The People's Korea for foreign correspondents on Apr. 12 at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo.

Vice-Chairman Pak Jae Ro of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) gave a lecture on the recent situation in Korea.

Attendants at the luncheon were Tokyo bureau chiefs and foreign correspondents of Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Baltimore Sun, Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurter Allgemeine, U.P.I., A.P., A.F.P., Reuters, Time, N.B.C., A.B.C., C.B.S. Broadcasting of New Zealand, etc.

Firstly, Vice-Chairman Pak Jae Ro referred to the north-south ping-pong talks, particularly with respect to the proposal by the DPRK to form a unified team for the 35th World Table Tennis Championships slated in Pyongyang from Apr. 25.

"We express deep regrets over the fact that the south side was still taking to the insincere attitude of boycotting the bilateral talks, refusing to withdraw its erroneous attitude of forming a separate team," he said and continued:

"Such an attitude of the south side runs counter to the unanimous desire of the entire nation to see a unified national team formed for the world championships and shows an intrigue of division, not unification of the country.

"There is still time for formation of a unified team if the south side has will to realize the unanimous desire of the whole nation to send a unified team to the 35th World Table Tennis Championships."

Secondly, he mentioned the north-south liaison representatives contact, which was ruptured by the insincere attitude of the south Korean side.

The north-south contact resumed on Feb. 17 dates back to the report made by President Kim Il Sung on Sep. 9 last year, commemorat ing the 30th birthday of the DPRK, he said. He went on:

"From the outset, the north side is maintaining the stand of cooperation, unity and unification.

"However, " he said, "the south is aggravating the atmosphere of dialogue by challenging the sincere efforts of Pyongyang.

"Though Pyongyang stopped slandering the south on Feb. 1, Seoul still continues slandering and vilifying the north. From Mar. 1, they staged even war games dubbed "Team Spirit '79", the largest in scale since the last war, near the MDL, with the DPRK as an object of attack.

"The hard fact is that there is a wide gap between the words and deeds of the south side which insists on 'holding a dialogue for unification'"

Finally, he referred to a Pyongyang-Washington talk and the GI pull-out from south Korea and criticized Washington for supporting the Seoul authorities and its failure to line up to its promise of troop withdrawal from south Korea.

Seminars on Presidential Works Held

Recently seminars on works of President Kim Il Sung have been held in various areas of the world.

Follows brief reports of the seminars

The Al Shiyaha Committee of Beirut district under the central committee of the "Lebanese Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism" recently held a seminar on "The Youth Must Take Over the Revolution and Carry It Forward," a work of President Kim Il Sung, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by Hussein Radwan, chairman of the central committee of the "Lebanese Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism," members of the Al Shiyaha Committee and enthusiastic readers of the works of the President.

The seminar unanimously adopted a letter to President Kim Il Sung.

Speeches were made at the seminar.

The speakers stressed that the brilliant victory of the Korean youth movement was made possible thanks to the embodiment of the Juche idea founded by the great leader.

The great leader's idea that the younger generation should continue the revolution is a programmatic guideline to be consistently adhered to by the peoples and youth of all countries for the final victory of the revolution, they noted.

A seminar on "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country," a work of President Kim Il Sung, was recently organized by the "Youth Group for the Study of the Works of Comrade Kim Il Sung" in Southeast Asia, according to a KCNA report.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted at the seminar.

Speakers at the seminar said that the publication of the rural theses by President Kim Il Sung was of historic significance in carrying out the world revolution and the revolutionary cause of the working class.

They pointed out that though agricultural production is steadily decreasing in many countries under the influence of the cold front, Korea's agricultural production is continuously growing at a leaping pace under the rays of the Juche-based rural theses.

The Indian Association for Friendship recently held a seminar on "On Some Problems of Our Party's Juche Idea and the Government of the Republic's Internal and External Policies," a work of President Kim Il Sung, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by Chairman R.P. Agrawal, General Secretary B.C. Gupta and members of the Indian Association for Friendship.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted at the seminar.

Speeches were made by the chairman and general secretary of the association.

With the founding of the Juche idea, the popular masses, the maker of history, came to have a powerful theoretical weapon and a correct guiding idea for successfully carrying out the revolutionary struggle and construction work, they stressed.

Saying that the founding of the Juche idea was a great event in human history, they emphasized: The Juche idea brightly illumines the road ahead of the peoples of all countries of the world.

The "Group for the Study of the Great Juche Idea of Comrade Kim Il Sung" of the Fourah Bay College of the University of Sierra Leone held recently a seminar on "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country," a work of President Kim Il Sung, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of its publication, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by the chief and members of the study group and teachers and students of the college.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted at the seminar.

The chief of the "Group for the Study of the Great Juche Idea of Comrade Kim Il Sung" of the Fourah Bay College of the University of Sierra Leone made a speech on the subject "Basic Principle for the Solution of the Rural Question under Socialism."

He stressed: The Juche philosophy of Comrade Kim Il Sung is a doctrine applicable to all the countries of the world, to say nothing of the countries which are waging the national-liberation struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Saying that the success of the newly independent countries in the revolutionary struggle depends on how they correctly solve the rural question, he stressed: The experience of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the correct solution of the peasant and agricultural questions is an example for the world.

A seminar on "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country," a work of President Kim Il Sung, was held recently at the Kathmandu City Hall under the sponsorship of the Nepal-Korea Friendship Association, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by members of the friendship association and a large number of persons in the domains of culture and the press.

Speakers at the seminar said that the rural theses authored by His Excellency Kim Il Sung, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, carried great theoretical and practical significance for its universal truth and scientific and realistic value.

In the theses great President Kim Il Sung consummated in an all-round way the unique idea, theory and strategic and tactical policies on the solution of the rural question and thus indicated a shortcut for the final solution of the rural question, the speakers noted. Indeed, the rural theses is a great agricultural programme for the successful solution of the peasant and agricultural questions under socialism, they stressed.

A seminar of the immortal Juche idea founded by President Kim Il Sung was held recently in Harynabad, an industrial city of Haryana State, India, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by Indian parliamentarians, the general secretary of the Indian "Society for the Study of the Juche Idea" and leading members of trade unions in Haryana State.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was adopted at the seminar.

Speeches were made at the seminar.

Noting that the immortal Juche idea lights the road of revolution ahead of the Korean people and the world revolutionary people, they said that the Juche idea must be taken as a guiding principle in all fields of the revolution and construction.

The Juche idea teaching the truth that one is responsible for one's own destiny and one has also the capacity for hewing out one's own destiny is a powerful weapon in the struggle for the liberation of the people, they declared, and stressed: Human dignity and rights can be firmly guaranteed only when the Juche idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is embodied.

A seminar on "Unity Based on Revolutionary Comradeship is the Source of the Invincibility of the People's Army," a work of President Kim Il Sung, was held recently at the Raas Nabai, Beirut district, "Group for the Study of Kimilsungism" under the central committee of the "Lebanese Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism," according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by Hussein Radwan, chairman of the central committee of the "Lebanese Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism," and members of the study group and many other personages.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted at the seminar.

Speeches were made at the seminar.

They said: In the work the great leader expounded the principle of the indestructible unity and cohesion of a revolutionary organizations based on revolutionary comradeship. This gave the revolutionary organizations, parties and revolutionary armed forces of all countries a textbook to develop and strengthen their ranks into a united force. This principle embodying the great Juche idea is a revoutionary principle of most solid and correct unity and cohesion.

A seminar on "Revolutionizing and Working-classizing Women," a work of President Kim Il Sung was held recently by the Indian Association for East-West Friendship, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by the chairman and members of the Indian Association for East West friendship.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was adopted at the seminar.

Speeches were made by the chairman and the general secretary of the association.

The speakers stressed that President Kim Il Sung, basing himself on a scientific analysis of the role played by women in the revolution and construction, clearly put forward a concrete policy and way for their revolutionization and working-classization.

A seminar on "Theses on Socialist Education," a work of President Kim Il Sung was recently held by the "Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea of Comrade Kim Il Sung" of the General Union of Teachers of Palestine in Iraq, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by the chairman and members of the committee.

It unanimously adopted a letter to President Kim Il Sung.

Delivering a report at the seminar the chairman of the committee referred to the general idea of the work and its theoretical and practical significance.

He stressed that "Theses on Socialist Education" authored by President Kim Il Sung is the most profound and outstanding document giving answers to questions which remain unsolved in education.

Noting that the work of the great leader is a classic work giving concrete and correct solutions to questions of how all countries making revolution should develop education and bring up people into men of communist type, the chairman of the committee evinced his firm determination to study the great leader's work more deeply and disseminate it.

Rodong Sinmun:

New Epoch in Iranian People's History

PYONGYANG, Apr. 7 (KCNA)—The proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Iran signifies a great victory in the struggle of the Iranian people for overthrowing old monarchy and achieving genuine sovereignty, democracy, independence and social progress, says Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) in a signed article headlined "A New Epoch in the History of the Iranian People" hailing the national referendum and proclamation of the Islamic Republic in Iran.

The Korean people extend warm congratulations to the Iranian people on the proclamation of the Islamic Republic in Iran, the article declares, and goes on:

It is less than two months since the imperial regime was overthrown by an all-people uprising and the people's revolution ended in a historical victory. But, in this period, deep-going changes have taken place in the social and political life of the Iranian people.

Having won victory in the revolution, they are energetically striving to build a new independent and prosperous Iran under the leadership of His Excellency Ayatollah Imam Khomeini.

The article points to the fact that the Iranian people are destroying the fascist ruling machines of the days of the imperial regime, depriving the imperialists and domestic reactionaries of their economic foothold and enforcing positive socio-economic reforms in succession.

Recalling that the rich oil of Iran was an object of imperialists' plunder in the past, it says: But it is now effectively utilized for the independent development of the country and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

Pointing out that the course of gigantic changes in Iran shows that the strength of the people who hold their destiny in their hands is great and nothing can block their onward movement, the article continues:

The new government of Iran pursues a new independent foreign policy based on peace, neutrality and non-alignment, her people are making a great contribution by their struggle to strengthening anti-imperialist and independent forces. After the victory of the revolution Iran decided not to play any longer the role of the imperialist "gendarme" in the Persian Gulf region and withdrew from the CENTO, an aggressive military organization of imperialism, to precipitate its collapse. Iran has severed diplomatic relations with Israel and the South African rascist clique and stopped oil supply to them. The government and people of Iran actively assist the people's struggle for liberation and independence and are developing the friendly relations with peoples of the Third World countries.

The Korean people heartily rejoice, as over their own, over the victory and successes made by the new government and people of Iran in building a new life and express full support to and solidarity with them in their just struggle, the article says.

Both Korea and Iran, it stresses, are countries situated in Asia.

The two peoples are closely linked together for the common desire to achieve independent development against imperialism.

Our people were more delighted than anyone else when the Iranian people overthrew the imperial regime and won victory in the revolution and warmly hailed their victory. We are proud of having the valiant and dignified people like the Iranian people as their friend in Asia and treasure friendly and cooperative relations with them.

To develop the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Iran who are advancing along the road of anti-imperialism and independence, is an important contribution to the building of a sovereign, independent and prospering new Asia, Asia for the Asian people.

Our people wholeheartedly wish the Iranian people continued great successes in firmly defending the gains of revolution and building a new independent and prosperous society.

Dangerous Moves to Strengthen Seoul-Tokyo Military Tieup

Washington is further delaying or even halting the troop withdrawal from south Korea under the pretext of "increased north Korean military threat." In step with this move, the largest-ever US-south Korea 'oint war game "Team Spirit 79" was held last March on and around the Korean Peninsula, to demonstrate the capacity as a "deterrent."

In parallel, dangerous efforts to strengthen military tieups between Seoul and Tokyo have become more apparent recently. This is well exemplified by the latest visit of a topnotch south Korean brasshat to Japan.

Defense Chief Will Fly to Seoul

Of late, the "chairman of the south Korean joint chiefs of staff", Kim Jong Hwan, stopped over in Japan on his way home from the United States. This was the first trip to this country by such a high-ranking south Korean officer in ten years. In June, 1969, the then "chairman of the south Korean joint chiefs of staff", Mun Hyong Tae, flew to Japan for the first time, together with American staff planners in south Korea.

During his stay here, Kim held a series of talks with the leaders of the Defense Agency and the Self-Defense Forces. He called upon his Japanese counterpart to intensify bilateral cooperation in military affairs. In particular, he urged Japanese officials to support Seoul's opposition to the US troop withdrawal, arguing about what they call Pyongyang's "military buildup." As a setp toward winning their sympathy, Kim requested the Japanese to visit south Korea.

In response to this, the Director-General of the Defense Agency, Yamashita, expressed his willingness, when he met Kim on Apr. 4 in his office, to visit south Korea as early as possible after a trip to the US. Yamashita will be the first Japanese defense chief to visit south Korea.

Mutual Visits Frequent

It was also disclosed that the chief of staff of the Ground Self-Defense Force, Nagano, will visit south Korea for the purpose of "military inspection" from Apr. 30 to May 4. It is the first time in eight years that a Japanese topnotch brasshat will fly to south Korea with such a direct military purpose. Nagano is said to visit Washington right after his south Korean visit. Following him, the Chairman of the Japanese Joint Chiefs of Staff, Takashina, is scheduled to visit the US.

Last December, the Commander of the "UN Forces" in south Korea, Vessey, flew to Tokyo to meet Takashina. On Apr. 6, the defense chief, Yamashita, met the chief of staff of the US army, Rogers, when he visited this country on his way home from south Korea.

Apparently, there are ominous moves among the south Koreans, Japanese and the Americans on the military scene through their frequent visits to each other's capital.

It is reported that the planned defense chief's visit to Seoul will pave the way for a bilateral official consultative body on military affairs.

Since the conclusion of the "south Korea-Japan treaty" in 1965, a "ministerial conference" has been held every year between Seoul and Tokyo, in order to strengthen their political and economic tieup. In military affairs, it was agreed reciprocally to station military attaches in Tokyo and Seoul and promote mutual visits of military personnel. Through these measures, military cooperation has virtually developed between south Korea and Japan.

But, no official framework for such a purpose can be set up , in view of public opinion in both parts against it.

With the so-called "guideline for US-Japan defense cooperation" worked out last year, Tokyo hastily tried to enact notorious "emergency legislation" and accelerate arrangements for the mobilization of the Self-Defense Forces in a "contingency" on the Korean Peninsula. In this connection, a closer military tieup between south Korean and Japan has been sought in real earnest.

According to the aforesaid guideline officially adopted at the "US-Japan security council" held on Nov. 27, 1978, the Self-Defense Forces are to be placed under the command of the US forces here for a joint operation to cope with a "contingency" on the peninsula.

At the tenth south Korea-Japan "ministerial conference" held last September, attention was focused upon the possibility of "bilateral security cooperation." Then, among others, serious consideration was given to the early formation of a "regular ministerial conference of defense chiefs." Regarding Yamashita's planned trip to Seoul, Defense Agency officials disclosed that the defense chief would discuss with his south Korean counterpart the realization of regular mutual exchange for military analysis. There is no doubt that it is designed eventually to inaugurate a permanent official body to serve the development of military cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo.

Revived "S. Korea Clause"

These dangerous moves are mainly intended for the aggressive military integration of Seoul and Tokyo aimed at Pyongyang.

The "white paper on defense" prepared by the Japanese authorities last year stipulates that: "It is vitally related to the security of Japan to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

This description originates in the so-called "south Korea clause" in the "US -Japan joint statement" of 1969 released after the summit between the then US Presidnt Nixon and the then Japanese Prime Minister Sato. Then, Sato declared that "Japan and south Korean share the same destiny."

Yamashita's south Korean junket is also based on such an aggressive formula. It is reported that the defense chief will discuss with his south Korean counterpart: firstly, "north Korea's military buildup"; and secondly, the delaying of the US troop withdrawal from south Korea and the reinforcement of the "compensatory measures" to offset the withdrawal.

In his talks with the visiting south Korean brasshat, Yamashita went the length of saying that "north Korea's military buildup" destabilizes the "security" of south Korea and Japan. He added that he would do everything in his power to remove such a "factor of instability," by demonstrating closer cooperation among the three powers on his trips to Washington and Seoul.

Obstacle to Korean Reunification

These statements are a grave challenge to the entire Korean people, especially the peaceloving socialist country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In every respect, Tokyo's attitude diametrically contravenes the renewed Korean effort for north-south talks.

Its ulterior intention lies in a vicious attempt to create "two Koreas." At the instigation of Washington, Tokyo attempts to set the south of Korea against the north, by reinforcing the military integration of south Korea and Japan in step with the former's military tieup with the US.

Such a move will never help remove what they term a-" factor of instability" on the peninsula, but, on the contrary, it will certainly increase this factor. Eventually, it may further aggravate the situation there and cause a conflict.

It is indisputable that the Japanese authorities run counter to the current trends for Korea's independent, peaceful reunification and a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Seoul should desist from embroiling foreign powers to form a dangerous military alliance against the northern half. Instead, it should come out with sincerity in the north-south talks for the peaceful solution of the reunification issue.

Seoul Cracks Down upon Christians

Mass arrests of people affiliated with the Christian Academy were made by the notorious KCIA, according to reports reaching here from Seoul.

It is now feared that some of the arrested face a possible execution on charges of involvement in a groundless case like the so-called People's Revolutionary Party.

The disclosure was made on Apr. 13 by progressive Japanese Christian organizations at a joint news conference in the Japanese capital of Tokyo.

According to their disclosure, over 40 personages affiliated with the academy were walked away by the "KCIA." Among them are employees of the academy, professors, leaders of the farmers' movement and officials of trade unions. The mass arrests took place from March to April, beginning with the Mar. 9 arrest of Han Myong Suk, secretary of the women's section of the Christian Academy.

As of Apr. 13, around ten persons are under detention, including Ms Han Myong Suk.

According to reports reaching the Japanese Christians from Seoul, no reason of the arrest, detention and charge was explained to the arrested persons and their families. The arrests were never reported in south Korea.

The grilled persons recalled, the reports said, they had been charged of being involved in an "anti-national affair, the work of a communist group independent of north Korea."

The Japanese Christians said the south Korean Christian circles are concerned that a new bogus "spyring case" might be announced, on the occasion of Apr. 19 student uprising implicating the arrested in it. The aim would be to crack down on the south Korean democratization movements as in the 1974 "PRP" case.

Grave anxieties were expressed over the report that those arrested were being investigated by the 5th department of the "KCIA" in charge of north Korean affairs, not by the 2nd department in charge of anti-government moves of the Christians.

The Christian Academy has been conducting a missionary work. Its work was started during WWII in Germany, in order to attain freedom and peace through dialogue transcending ideology, religions, religious sects and interests. Christian Academy people are active in south Korea, Japan and European countries.

Suppression of the people is being further intensified in south Korea.

The Pak junta walked away or placed under house arrest a number of democratic dissidents on or around Mar. 1 in order to hold in check the planned anti-"government" actions on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Mar. 1 uprising.

About 60 religionists, journalists and students were arrested or under house arrest since the end of February.

The patriotic south Korean dissident poet Kim Ji Ha handcuffed appearing before a Seoul court, with his face full of a strong confidence of final victory

Political Prisoners In S. Korea

MUN IK HWAN, 60, Presbyterian minister, is imprisoned on charges of violating the "presidential emergency measure No. 9" (EM-9) in connection with the publication of the Mar. 1, 1976 declaration for democracy and national salvation. Although he was once released by the so-called "presidential parole," he was re-arrested soon.

PAK HYONG GYU, 55, Presbyterian minister, was sentenced to five-year imprisonment and forfeiture on charges of "agitating students" and violating "EM-9."

CHO HWA SUN, 44, Methodist minister, is detained on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "Friday prayer meeting" incident.

KO YONG GUN, 46, Presbyterian minister, is detained on charges of violating "EM-9."

KANG HUI NAM, 59, Presbyterian minister, was sentenced to ten-year imprisonment and seven-year forfeiture on charges of violating the "anti-communist law" and "EM-9."

YUN BAN UNG, 68, Presbyterian minister, was sentenced to three-year imprisonment and forfeiture in connection with the publication of the Mar. 1 declaration.

SONG GI SUK, former professor at Chonnam University was sentenced to four-year imprisonment and forfeiture on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the publication of "a guideline for our education."

KYE HUN TAE, member of the national council for democracy, is under detention. His charges are not made clear.

LI YONG HUI, 50, former professor at Hanyang University, was sentenced to three-year imprisonment on charges of violating the "anti-communist law" for his study of Chinese literature.

AN JONG PIL, 42, chairman of the Tonga struggle committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "civil rights note" incident and the "Oct. 17 bulletin" incident.

HONG JONG MIN, 35, secretary-general of the Tonga struggle committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "civil rights note" incident and the "Oct. 17 bulletin" incident.

CHANG YUN HWAN, 43, member of the Tonga struggle committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "letter to journalists" incident.

AN SONG YOL, 41, member of the Tonga struggle committee and of its human rights sub-committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "Oct. 17 bulletin" incident.

PAK JONG MAN, 36, member of the Tonga struggle committee and of its human rights sub-committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "civil rights note" incident.

KIM JONG CHOL, 35, member of the Tonga struggle committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with his writing a "letter to journalists."

CHONG YON SU, 33, member of the Tonga struggle committee, is now on trial on charges of violating "EM-9" in connection with the "civil rights note" incident and the "Oct. 17 bulletin" incident.

CHANG GI PYO, 33, the writer of the poetry "voice of people," was sentenced to three-year imprisonment on charges of "slandering the state."

KIM JI HA, 38, poet, was sentenced to life-time imprisonment, which was later reduced to 20 years, on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

RYANG SONG U, 35, poet and former teacher, was sentenced to five-year imprisonment and forfeiture on charges of "slandering the state" in his author, the "note of slaves."

KIM MYONG SIK, 35, Jesuitical missionary, was sentenced to three-year imprisonment for the publication of his satiric poetry, the "ten chapters on the study of history."

PAK YANG HO, 32, the author of the fable "mad bird," is now under detention on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

JAPAN KOREANS:

CHOE CHOL GYO, 47, owner of amusement business, was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

CHIN DU HYON, 51, official of the "federation of south Korean residents in Japan," was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law" in connection with the "north Korean spyring case."

PAEK OK KWANG, 31, secretary-general of the "chamber of the south Korean youth in Japan," was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

LI CHOL, 30, graduate of Koryo University, was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

KANG JONG HON, 27, undergraduate of Seoul University, was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

KANG U GYU, 62, executive of Daiei plastic company, was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law" in connection with the "liberal unification council-north Korean spyring case."

SO SUNG, 34, graduate of Seoul University, was condemned to death on charges of violating the "anti-communist law" and the "national security law" in connection with the "campus spyring case."

SO JUN SIK, 30, undergraduate of Seoul University, was sentenced to 15-year imprisonment on charges of violating the "anti-communist law" and the "national security law" in connection with the "campus spyring case." He was released last year after serving his prison term, but immediately detained again with the "public security law" applied to him. He is still under detention.

Conscription Age to Be Lowered to 18

The Pak "regime" has worked out a plan to lower the starting age of military service from 20 years to 18.

This plan, if enforced, will strengthen the present south Korean military power and it can be said that the plan is aimed at controlling the younger generation and intensifying tension in the present situation, and at consolidating present "regime". Especially, in the present situation, where demand for the country's reunification is mounting among the Korean people, the lowering of the starting age of military service will have the effect of dampening the trends among the people for the country's reunification.

According to south Korean papers dated March 22, the south Korean authorities and the ruling Democratic Republican Party are planning to lower the age limit of military service from 20 to 18 and change the upper age limit from the present 35 years to "certain years after discharge from military service."

The youth will be enlisted immediately after the graduation from high schools, deprived of two years of freedom after high school, and so that the youth will be controlled more strictly.

If the plan is realized, the youth will have to enter military service just after high school, after receiving military training for two hours in a week. Otherwise, they will be enrolled in universities, where students will get four hours' military training in a week, and have tojoin the army before or after the graduation. Further, after completing military service, they are forced to join the reserves who have to receive military training ro 60 hours a year. After that, they also have to get compulsory 50-hour training a year as members of "civil defense corps" until they become 50 years old.

The Pak "regime" has completely established a total national mobilization system and an allout security system in the past ten years. In February, 1968, Pak Jung Hi announced the establishment of local reserves. Establishing the "yushin system" in October, the same year, Pak Jung Hi held all power in his hands, and while stepping up military tension he put the people on a wartime national mobilization footing in 1975, formulating the four new wartime laws, establishing "civil defense corps" and reviving the "students' national defense corps."

The system of "students' national defense corps" is one of the means of turning schools into barracks and of suppressing at bayonet-point the anti-Pak democratic movement which consists mainly of students.

The lowering of the age limit of military service, Pak "regime" is scheming to control 150,000 high school graduates who are waiting for another chance for college enrollment by putting them in barracks.

Recently the number of south Korean military power has been largely increased— the "national army"-600,000 men, the "local reserves"-3,200,000 men, the "national defense corps" -4,300,000 men—compared with 1967's number (the "national army"-only 500,000 men) and the number will be increased more in future.

The Pak "regime" is trying to justify the total national mobilization system under the pretext of "threat from the north," but the "regime" which is intensifying the tension, while paying lip service to dialogue, will be sharply condemned at home and abroad.

The Seoul "regime" is mobilizing even students in its dangerous war preparations against Pyongyang, creating a terror-ridden atmosphere across south Korea.

The Self-Defense Forces of Japan are busy working out an operational plan for the so-called emergency mobilization of their troops in an "contingency" on the Korean Peninsula. Recently, there are many ominous signs of the intensified military cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo.

Dissident Students Sent To Barracks

The committee of the released students in south Korea on Feb. 9 issued a statement in protest against the regime's reactionary measures to send them to barracks.

Follow its excerpts:

It is a well-known fact that in south Korea students who have engaged in the struggle for social democratization, are now suppressed and barred by all means from employment by the present authorities.

The students who were recently released from prison by the "amnesty" are not yet recovered their full citizenship or permitted to return to their schools.

This clearly shows that the "amnesty" was not carried out to put an end to suppression of the released students and to prepare them for participation in ordinary social life. Showing their real colors, the authorities intend to force them into the army as active soldiers, as they are not permitted to return to their schools.

This means the students who were released from prison by the "amnesty", will be treated as ex-convicts for 7 years without the right to vote or eligibility, and without a qualification for public service.

But the "government", as an exceptional measure, ordered the released students to join active service. Moreover, the students who had been exempted from military service before they were arrested, were made to receive conscription tests.

Besides, in 1977 the government made U Yong Jae, a student of Foreign Language College join the army in 18 days after he completed his prison term, before he didn't recover his health.

Following him, Pak Song Gyu (a student of Seoul Normal College), Song Bang Chun (a student of Seoul Normal College), and Kim Jong Hwan (a student of the liberal arts and science college of Seoul National University) were made to go into the army in a month after they were released from the prison.

The students enlisted in the army after being released from prison by the "amnesty" are reported to have been assigned to the most dangerous post in the front line unit and were put under constant surveillance by their officers and officers of the army security headquarters.

But why is it that the authorities enlist them as active soldiers in disregard of the general rule of conscription, as soon as they are released from prison, without permitting them to go back to school or recover their citizen's right?

And why doesn't the "government" treat the released students as ex-convicts like others so far as conscription is concerned, when it treats them as ex-convicts in other respects?

We consider it as another form of suppression of released students by the "government".

We can't help deciding it as a political design of the "government" to remove "trouble makers" from the progressive forces of the nation by separating them from society for over 3 years.

In short, this measure of enlisting the democratic students in the army is another way of the "government" to put them under surveillance as in prison.

But if the "government" abuses the conscripting system as a political means and as another means of oppression of the released students, we will resolutely refuse enlistment in the army for active service.

And if the "amnesty" means enlistment in the army of students as active soldiers and not the recovery of the citizen's right or the right to go back to school, we will return the "amnesty papers" in order to expose the fraudulence of the "amnesty" and ask the government to reinprison us.

Committee of the Released Students
Chairman Li Bom Yong and 28 members

Feb. 9, 1979.

Japan Business Leader's Anachronistic Remarks

"Although Japan had committed a lot of crimes during the period of its 36-year-long colonial rule over Korea, it had also certainly made some contributions to Korea, especially, as regards education, administration and military systems."

These reckless remarks were made by Sakurada, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, in his speech given to an international seminar of employers, which was held in Seoul on Mar. 21 under the sponsorship of the south Korean employers' association.

The Japanese business leader added: "The initial growth of the south Korean economy was owed to those who had been educated by imperial Japan. In the final analysis, the achievements made by the present 'revolutionary government' result from Japanese education."

His thoughtless remarks reveal what Japanese business circles conceive in their minds today. Far from reflecting upon their harsh exploitation and plunder of the Korean people during the Japanese colonial rule, Japanese capitalists have been recently engrossed in making reinroads into south Korea as a commodity market as well as a supply base of cheaper labour. With the result that south Korea has been converted into an appendix of Japanese capitalism in terms of economic structure.

The reactionary circles of Japan now shamelessly try to reverse white and black, thereby justifying not only their past colonial rule over Korea but also their renewed neo-colonialistic policy on south Korea.

Under the 36-year-long Japanese colonial rule, the Korean people had been totally deprived by the Japanese imperialists of their national and democratic rights, and even their own names and mother tongue.

It is only the present ruling circles, including the "chief executive" himself, who had benefitted by the Japanese colinial rule. They pledged to remain loyal to the emperor of Japan. The United States which replaced the defunct Japanese imperialism, succeeded the latter's fascistic colonial ruling machinery as a whole, including administration, education and army. The present Seoul "regime" is modeled after it. In other words, nothing other than the dictatorial "*yusin* system" directly results from the repressive reign of Japanese imperialism in Korea.

This time, Sakurada self-exposed that Japanese business circles prefer to the present authoritarian rule of south Korea, as it is beneficial to them in making more profits there.

His anachronistic remarks intended to appreciate Japan's colonial rule, widely evoke national indignation among the entire Koreans at home and abroad.

South Korean major dailies unanimously voiced strong protests.

In its editorial, the "Choson Ilbo," Mar. 25, pointed out that it would be abnormal for our society to remain silent toward such a statement, accusing the authorities that they had not shown any official reaction.

The paper added: "The Japanese tend to regard themselves as the benefactors to the Koreans, even today, too, as so in the past. On the other hand, the Koreans are forced to express thanks for this. The Japanese don't hope that the Korean Peninsula will be unified. In other words, they dislike to see that the Korean nation will emerge prosperous."

In a contribution to the "Hanguk Ilbo", Mar. 25, a south Korean journalist disclosed that such an administration and military system of the Japanese colonialists as referred to by Sakurada had been actually superior to others, only in turning Korea into a huge prison and exploiting and plundering the nation.

Korea Lovely Land

Mt. Myohyang

This beautiful land of 3,000 *ri* is endowed with so numerous scenic spots.

But you can't tell all their merits before seeing Mt. Myohyang.

Climb this green mountain along a deep valley in company with your friends.

And you'll be simply fascinated by its superb scenery, its innocent, mysterious appearance.

(From "Song of Mt. Myohyang")

From olden times Korean forefathers were fond of reciting this song written by someone in praise of exquisite Mt. Myohyang, one of the four celebrated mountains of the DPRK.

Rising over the intersection of the boundaries of three provinces—North and South Pyongan and Chagang, Mt. Myohyang is over 120 *ri* around and stretches as long as more than 70 *ri* from west to east. It evokes the admiration of the beholder for its majestic appearance, multifarious undulation and superb artistural beauty.

In the immemorial past, the granite and gneiss sheets started cracking and breaking with the passage of time by the powerful action of the wind and rain, some rocks rolling down to form deep valleys and others turning into fantastic rocks. And there appeared the present Mt. Myohyang.

Its peaks are sharp-shaped like the teeth of a saw, and its valleys and ridges are very undulate.

On Mt. Myohyang you will enjoy the beautiful, mysterious view of Manmulsang (the Peaks of Ten Thousand Features) and the scenery which change from season to season. Thickets of ever-green pines and fragrant junipers, brilliant flowers in spring, lush green foliages in summer, scarlet maples in autumn—all these are enchanting and defy description.

There are four sightseeing routes in Mt. Myohyang which consists of the Pyoh-bong Peak, the highest one rising 1,909 metres above the sea, and many other strange-shaped peaks, such as the Chilsong-bong Peak, the Wonsim-bong Peak and the Taejobong Peak, each rising 1,500 metres and more above the sea.

The route leading to the Sangwon-gol and Manook-gol Valleys has many scenic attractions.

The Sangwon-gol Valley, the best spot, extends from the access of Mt. Myohyang to the Sangwon-am Hermitage. There the crystal-clear stream races down, exposing its white-pebble bottom full of white pebbles. Many waterfalls are cascading down, sending up silvery clouds of spray.

Splendid are the Kumgang and Tsacha Falls showering down in white misty masses. A little way up, there lies the Mother-Rock on which you will enjoy another superb view. From your eyes will rest on three big waterfalls called Sanju, Ryonnyon and Kwanum falls and on a hermitage called Sangwon-am which stands in the middle of those waterfalls against the backerround of a dense thicket. It is a picturesque scenery, indeed.

Some climbing alone the Hyanesan-chon Brook past the Sangwon-gol Valley will lead you to a pushing medicinal spring and, a little further up, to the Manook-gol Valley. As its name suggests itself, this valley has lots of waterfalls and is no less lovely than the Manook-done of Mt. Kumgang.

The view from the highest Pirobong Peak is spectacular and magnificent

On the way to this peak there is a great stretch of juniper woods peculiar to Mt. Myohyang. No sooner do you step in this area than you will inhale the strong pleasant odor of junipers. The air, impregnated all over the mountain. Hence the name of Mt. Myohyang.

The Puso-bong Peak affords the great sight of sharp peaks, each boasting of its own height, and this scenery falls into chime with the Chonghon River which quietly meanders along the foot of the mountain. In fine weather the Pyoh-bong Peak commands the distant views of Mt. Kumgang, Mt. Chilbo, Pain and, across it, the West Sea.

Mt. Myohyang has various flowers of all its own such as magnolia, clove and sassoon. It produces over 600 kinds of plants including prostrate juniper and pine-nut trees and yellow rhododendron.

There are also rare birds such as roller, white-back, red belted, yellow nagatal, great-tit, headge-sparrow and black, as well as various animals such as musk-deer, goral and bear. All these add the mountain flavor to the mountain.

Mt. Myohyang is fixed as a state's nature reserve to keep its natural color as it is.

Mt. Myohyang keeps many historical relics boasting of the artistic talents of the Korean people. Originally it had more than 360 temples and cloisters including the Pohyon-sa Temple, Sangwon-am Hermitage and Hwajangbong Cloister which show the outstanding architecture, sculpture and fine arts of the Koreun ancestors. But most of them were destroyed by the barbarous bombing of the US imperialists during the period of the Fatherland Liberation War.

At present there remain only 20 or so temples, and stone towers and monuments. The Myohyangsan Museum now keens with care the valuable cultural relics of the Koreun people including the complete collection of Tripitaka Koreana consisting of 80,000 wooden blocks.

Mt. Myohyang also bears numerous legends and stories about the righteous struggles of the Korean people against the foreign invaders and feudal rulers.

Before liberation this noted scenic place served as an amusement center for the Japanese and the men of wealth and power.

Only after liberation it turned into a wonderful place of culture and rest for the work-ing people under the wise guidance and warm care of President Kim Il Sung.

In the autumn of 1972, at an interview with a foreign visitor, he said as follows.

"They say Mt. Myohyang has a big deposit of gold. Once some of our people reported to me about it there, but the Government prohibited it. We did not want to destroy the beautiful mountain just for a few tons of gold."

These words of his have a story behind them.

A little over ten years ago, a prolonged survey ensure in the western district of Korea was prosecuting the Myohyang range in search of ore deposits, and discovered a rich deposit of very high-grade gold ore. Informed of this, the renowned geologist confirmed it on the spot and worked out a plan for the development of the gold deposit in Mt. Myohyang. He envisaged the huge amount of state investments. They meant to open up the deposit upon the approval of the great leader.

A few days later, however, quite by accident, the Government of the great leader said at a meeting that the hill of Mt. Myohyang should not be mined. He added that if a gold mine was developed there the terrific scenery would frighten all the birds in the mountain and chase them away and that the waste water of the ore pressing centre would pollute the Chonghon River and kill fish there.

The great leader seriously said that to destroy the beautiful Mt. Myohyang couldn't be exchanged for a few tons of gold.

He paid many visits to Mt. Myohyang in person and, treading steep, rugged mountain paths, fixed the sightseeing routes for the good of holiday-makers, and personally drew blueprint of the rest home before its construction and gave a detailed instruction as to let the rest-home visitors have a better food and spend their holidays just joyously.

Now, thanks to his great love for the beautiful mountains and rivers of the fatherland and for the people, Mt. Myohyang has become a real Mecca, a wonderful recreation centre. There are a cozy, gorgeous three-story rest-home building, a hall of culture, a restaurant and other necessary facilities for recreation. Every year thousands of working people enjoy their holiday here at state expense.

A little way down the rest home there lies a well-furnished camping centre of the Juvenile Corps. The expansion project for the Myohyang-san recreation ground is going on still now with the outlay of huge state funds.

Along with all other mountains and rivers of this country which change their appearances day after day under the wise guidance of the great leader, Mt. Myohyang, a noted mountain of the DPRK, will adorn itself more beautifully as a scenic spot, as a place of culture and rest, boasting of its magnificent and mysterious features for good.

Chomsongdae, astronomical observatory, in Kyongju is 9.17 meters in height and 5.2 meters in diameter at the bottom.

Culture of 1st-to-7th Centuries

Brief Korean History (9)

The feudal society in Korea made a considerable progress in its culture during the period from the 1st to the 7th century, with ethnological features being formed.

The common language, a key element of ethnological culture, functioned to bind the three kingdoms and the Kaya states together. In the 7th century, a noted scholar Sol Chong of Silla invented the Ridu system of using Chinese characters in expressing Korean phonetically.

In Koguryo astronomy made a significant development. A celestial map, "Chongsang Ryolcha Bun-yajido," completed in 1395, is still now in good shape. The map shows the precise location of 1,467 stars and 282 constellations.

In Kyongju, capital of Silla, there are remains of an astronomical observatory, called Chomsongdae, which is internationally famous for its advanced facilities. This observatory, built in the first half of the 7th century, is one of the oldest in the world.

At this time Korean alphabet was recorded in medicine and pharmacy, and Korean impressed Japan with Korea authoritative medical manuals, including "Ryoshang" of Koguryo, "Popsahang" of Silla and "Sinjigbang" of Paekche. Then, large three books in Koreu were compiled on history and geography: a one-hundredvolume history, "Pyogi," a chronicle of Koguryo, was brought out in the late 4th century, whose abridged edition was produced in 600 by Ri Mun Jin. In Paekche "Hoegi" was edited "Hoegi" a historical work in 375, and in Silla Kim Ku Chilbo compiled "Kukso," a book on the history of the country.

In Paekche "Chirijk," a geographical survey, was put in and in Silla "Chiriso," a geographical record, was compiled.

Architecture, too, recorded a brilliant flowering. To take the example of the Anhak Palace built around the end of the 6th century and the beginning of the 5th century. That palace consists of more than 20 majestic buildings over 50 metres high marshalled in orderly way. The buildings were connected by roofed corridors. The nine-storeyed pagoda at Hwangyong Temple, built in the second half of the 6th century, stood 66 metres.

What holds the foremost place in the fine arts in the period of the three kingdoms is the Koguryo tomb murals.

These tombs are to be found around Chian, the old capital of Koguryo, on the banks of the Taedong River and in the areas of Hwanghae Province. Most of them contained mural paintings and more than 30 tombs discovered so far are already known for murals. Typical of those are Anak Tomb No. 3, Susanri Tomb and also the Ssu-shin-chong.

Anak Tomb No. 3 in Anak county, Hwanghae Province, is the tomb of a Koguryo king which was built in the middle of the 4th century.

This tomb is composed of four big chambers, a long gallery and a stone gate, supported by quadrangle and octagonal columns. It is reminiscent of a magnificent underground palace. The walls of all the chambers and gallery are built with well-trimmed big stones and the ceiling is supported by parallel triangular or parallel rectangles. Murals found inside this tomb are awesome in size and diverse in themes. Painted on the walls in the gate and in the front chamber are guardians of the king, scenes of wrestling, dancing and musical performance. Portrayed on the wall of the west chamber are plump faces of the deceased couple, indicative of their prosperous life, attended by subjects and court ladies in a gorgeous chamber. Pictures of kitchen, butcher's shop, cowshed, stable and garage are to be found in the rear chamber. The ceiling of the big wall of the gallery is fresco of a parade of 250 men guarding the king's chief officials and military officers on horseback, carrying armed with various types of weapons, a musical band and acrobats. Anak Tomb No. 3 is regarded as the largest and richest in themes among the Koguryo tombs so far known.

The three bombs in Kangno are also the best ones in the Koguryo tomb murals.

The tombs in Kangso county, South Pyongan Province, were built around the 7th century. They are classified as big, middle and small in size and each tomb has one chamber built with big trimmed stones. Murals are of a magnificent underground palace. The walls of all the chambers and gallery are built with well-trimmed big stones and the ceiling is supported by parallel triangular or parallel rectangles. Murals found inside this tomb are awesome in size and diverse in themes. Painted on the walls in the gate and in the front chamber are guardians of the king, scenes of wrestling, dancing and musical performance. Portrayed on the wall of the west chamber are plump faces of the deceased couple, indicative of their prosperous life, attended by subjects and court ladies in a gorgeous chamber. Pictures of kitchen, butcher's shop, cowshed, stable and garage are to be found in the rear chamber. The ceiling of the big wall of the gallery is fresco of a parade of 250 men guarding the king's chief officials and military officers on horseback, carrying armed with various types of weapons, a musical band and acrobats. Anak Tomb No. 3 is regarded as the largest and richest in themes among the Koguryo tombs so far known.

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Four walls are decorated with murals of fantastic animals, symbolic of guardians-*ryonghi* or Red Pronix, on the south wall, *hyonmu* or Tortoise-Serpent, on the north wall, *chonghyong* or Blue Dragon, on the east wall, and *paekho* or White Tiger, on the west wall. Painted on the ceilings and upper parts of walls in two tombs are flying angels, cloud and arabesque and lotus and grotesque animals. From the Kangno three tombs we can see highly developed architecture and painting in the period of Koguryo.

Here we come across murals with expensive Jouhee-dancing of Koguryo people's artistic talents and their strong and sturdy character.

The remains discovered in the tomb of King Munjoong (501-523), the 24th king of Paekche, which is situated in Kongju county, South Chungcheong Province, clearly indicate the high standard of Paekche culture.

Unearthed from this tomb were fragmentary ornaments attached to a pair of gold crowns, gold earrings, a gold bairnin, bracelet, crooked beads and many other relics-of kinds and 2,560 pieces.

Gold earrings excavated from this tomb together with the ornaments of gold crowns, are one of the best works showing the high standard of metal-working industry of Paekche and the noble taste of its people.

Pagodas and Buddhist images of Paekche remaining so now, as well as Buddhist temples and images, paintings and industrial art objects in the Asuka period in Japan which were made with the help of Paekche technicians-all this bespeaks that Paekche culture was widely spread at home and abroad with great impact.

In the middle of the 4th century, a Koguryo musician-named Wang San Ak devised a six-stringed instrument Komungo and composed one hundred numbers. In the 6th century a Kaya musician named Urok invented Kayagum and wrote 12 tunes.

(To be continued)

Korean Painting
"Women of Namgang Village"
(By Kim U-Kwan, 1966)
This 3 icture was awarded grand prize at the 9th National Art Exhibition of the DPRK in 1966 where President Kim Il Sung indicated a target was to develop the Juche art into full flowering.

The picture vividly depicts the way women of the war-torn Namgang Village served the nation during the last Korean War. The women are portrayed as strongwilled in crossing the river under the cover of night, carrying provisions to the front.

Symbolized in the painting is the heroism and self-sacrifice of the Korean women, a big role in leading the Fatherland Liberation War to victory.

News Dispatch From Pyongyang

Mar. 28
•A delegation of the Korean Journalists Union left Pyongyang for a visit to Hungary and Romania.
Mar. 29
•A protocol of the fourth meeting of the Inter-Governmental Economic and Scientific-Technological Consultative Committee of the DPRK and the Hungarian People's Republic was signed.
Mar. 30
•A meeting marking the 34th anniversary of the liberation of Hungary was held on the Korea-Hungary Friendship Unbong Cooperative Farm.
•A 1979-1980 protocol for the implementation of the cultural as-recount between the Government of the DPRK and the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic was signed in Budapest.
Mar. 31
•Han Dok Il, newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Nigeria, presented his credentials to Olusegun Obasanjo, Head of State, Head of the Federal Military Government and General Commander of the Army of Nigeria.
Apr. 4
•An agreement on air service between the governments of the DPRK and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was signed in Tripoli.
Apr. 7
•Ayatollah Imam Khomeini, the Moslem Leader of Iran, met Cha Hi Chon, OK, ambassador of the DPRK to Iran.
Apr. 8
•An agreement on cooperation between the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee and the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation was signed in Pyongyang.
Apr. 9
•A government trade delegation of the Soviet Union headed by I.T. Grishin, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, arrived in Pyongyang.
Apr. 10
•A government delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic Headed by Foreign Minister Abdurrhman Jana Barre arrived in Pyongyang for a visit to the DPRK at the invitation of the Government of the DPRK.
(KCNA)

500th Performance of Opera

"Sea of Blood" Celebrated

A repor meeting marking the 500th-performance of the revolutionary opera "Sea of Blood," an immortal classic, was held at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre on March 19.

The revolutionary opera "Sea of Blood" shar ly exp ses the brutality and cruelty of the Japanese imperialist aggressors who occupied Korea in the past and vividly shows the heroic struggle of the Koreun people for smashing their colonial rule.

The opera vividly portrays, prove the correctness and invincible vitality of the line of anti-Japanese armed struggle formulated by President Kim Il Sung and teaches the truth of the revolutionary struggle that where there are oppressions, there always comes resistance and the revolution is the only way to be taken by the oppressed toiling masses.

In his report at the meeting, Li Chang Son said that eight years have passed since the Koreun literary men and artists put on the opera stage "Sea of Blood," an immortal classic, which w s created in the days of the anti-japanese revolutionary struggle, proclaiming the birth of the "Pipada" style opera to the world.

The celebratio of the 500th performance of the revolutionary opera "Sea of Blood" is an important occasion in summing up the precious success and experience gained in defending and safeguarding the brilliant revolutionary literary and art tradition of the party established by the great leader in person in the flames of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and bringing the flower-garden of Juche-oriente art into full bloom, he said.

He went on:

On the basis of the outstanding ideas on the building of Juche-oriented literature as set propounded by the great leader, the party put forward the unique policy of creating new revolutionary operas of our style fundamentally different from the old operas in ideological contents and artistic style and it was creditably implemented with the result that th revolutionary opera "Sea of Blood" was created as an immortal monumental masterpiece of our time and a model work of "Pibada" style opera art.

The birth of "Pibada" style revolutionary pera was a solemn declaration putting an end to the old opera tradition and announcing the birth of new operas conforming to the requirements of t e era of Juche, and great event which ushered in a new era of genuine opera art.

A letter of pledge to President Kim Il Sung was adopted at the meeting amidst a thunderous applause of the attendants.

The meeting was attended by men of culture, art and the press in Pyongyang.

Nat'l Workers' Art Circle Festival Held

A National Workers' Art Circle Festival was held in Pyongyang between March 7 and 19.

All persons in Pyongyang, Kaesong and Chongjin municipalities and the Ministry of Railways put on the stage successful works selected at the provincial competitions after city and county competitions.

The works gave a fruitful and vivid description of the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung and his noble communist virtues, the boundless loyalty of the Korean working people to him and the energetic endeavours of the Korean working class to fulfil the Second Seven-Year Plan abea of sche'ule and realize the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy.

The Festival showed that arts are popularized and generalized among the Korean workers to be part of their life.

World Bulletin

•Power station constructors of China built the Gongju Hydro-Power Station in Yunnan Province, Yunnan Province, the biggest one in southwest China.

The power station with a production capacity of 600,000 kw has a dam 85 metres high and 447 metres long.

•The third extraordinary congress of the Congolese Workers' Party was held.

•The President of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau visited Algeria.

•The Comoros President paid a visit to Algeria.

•The agreements were concluded between Sri Lanka and Iraq on strengthening cooperation in various domains.

•Joshua Nkomo, Co-Chairman of the Zimbabwean Patriotic Front, condemned the "election" farce staged by the Smith clique.

Visit to Monumental Edifice in Korea (2)

February 8 Hall of Culture

The February 8 Hall of Culture was completed on October 8, 1972 in 1975 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

President Kim Il Sung named the hall "February 8 Hall of Culture" after the day of the founding of the Korean People's Army as a tribute to the Korean People's Army.

The hall stands at the gate way to Pipa Street running along the River Potong which flows through the central part of Pyongyang.

The seven-storied hall, stands 50 meters high with a total floor space of 80,000 square meters.

It has a big stage—28 meters wide and 43.' meters deep—and a'out 600 rooms, big and small, including a giant theater with a seating capacity of 6,000, a small theater with about 1,300 seats and a picture theater which accomodates 600 spectators. The big stage is a revolving stage, which ca move stage sets quickly, and is equipped with special rails to carry stage properties. About 60 curtains and 800 lights for the stage are all remotecontrolled. In the front and on both sides of the hall there are small stages for a 200-member chorus and a 150-member orchestra.

The theater also has equipment for television and broadcasting and also for studiosound recording.

Since the hall is equipped with modern installations, it is often used for various performances, song and dance performances, and sometimes national functions take place there.

Seen in the hall are fine arrangements of wonderful pillars and Koreun paintings on the walls. The hall was surrounded by 5,000-square-meter grass, and a fountain which goes up 25 meters high, making a rainbow, is in the garden of the hall which is decorated with two big mosaic pictures, one n its front and the other on the back walls.

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